The Act provides for punishment to formulators, manufacturers and vendors of spurious and sub standard pesticides.

Foreign-funding of agricultural projects

1954. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agricultural projects being funded by foreign countries and international agencies;

(b) the present status of the ongoing agricultural projects, State-wise;

(c) whether any fresh projects seeking external assistance has been received from the States; and

(d) if so, the details of the same and the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Harvesting agricultural biodiversity

1955. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which Government are utilizing agricultural biodiversity to reduce poverty and hunger and also to improve the lives of rural people in a sustained manner; and

(b) the manner in which biodiversity helps in meeting the millennium development goals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Development of new crop varieties having traits for resistance to pests, diseases and enviornmental stresses derived from agro-biodiversity is the scientific approach to extend the benefits of agricultural biodiversity for enhancing the agricultural production and reducing hunger and poverty.

(b) The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are a set of eight measurable, time bound goals and targets adopted at the UN Millennium Summit in Septembr, 2000. One of the MDGs on Ensuring Environmental Sustainability deals most explicitly with biodiversity. Reversing the loss of biodiversity can help in sustainable access of people to safe drinking water, food, shelter and both modern and traditional medicines, thus significantly improving the life and ensuring environmental sustainability.

Allocations to Rajasthan under Macro Management Scheme

1956. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to Rajasthan during the last three years under Macro Management Scheme;

(b) the funds, so far, utilized by the State, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to popularize Macro Management Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The amount of funds allocated and released to the State Government of Rajasthan as also the amount (including the unspent balance of the preceding year) utilised by the State Government under Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) Scheme during the last three years ending 31st March 2005 are as indicated below:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Allocation	Unspent balance	Release	Utilization
2002-03	6700.00	540.98	6700.00	5397.17
2003-04	6700.00	1943.81	6571.19	7025.50
2004-05	6800.00	1489.50	11955.30*	8898.26

*Includes Additional Central Assistance

Under the Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme, the States have been given flexibility to develop and pursue activities on the basis